

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Paragraph 0027:

-- FIG. 3 is a block diagram illustrating exemplary modules of claims engine 116 (FIG. 1), according to one embodiment. In this embodiment, claims engine 116 includes authentication (Auth-N) modules 302_I-302_L, authorization (Auth-Z) modules 306_I-306_M, and an access control module 308. In one embodiment, Auth-N modules 302_I-302_L perform authentication operations (e.g., validates token(s) and/or trusts of token issuer(s)) for "L" different authentication mechanisms. For example, Auth-N modules 302_I - 302_L can perform such authentication operations for: (1) X.509 tokens; (2) ~~Kerberos tokens~~ KERBEROS™ tokens (security services application programming interface); and (3) Username/Password tokens; as well as other tokens. In addition, in this embodiment, Auth-N modules extract claim(s) from tokens as described above in conjunction with block 202 (FIG. 2). --

Paragraph 0028:

-- Auth-Z modules 306_I-306_M, in one embodiment, perform claim mapping operations such as, for example, mapping extracted claims to other claims for "M" different mappings. For example, Auth-Z modules 302_I-302_L can perform claim mapping operations to: (1) identify claims; (2) group membership claims (e.g., as defined in Windows Server 2003 WINDOWS SERVER 2003™ Authorization Manager); and (3) role claims; as well as other types of claims. In one embodiment, Auth-Z modules 306_I-306_M map claims to other claims as described above in conjunction with

block 204 (FIG. 2). In addition, Auth-Z modules 306₁-306_M, can map claims on a per resource basis. For example (continuing the above Internet purchase example), one of the Auth-Z modules can map the aforementioned employee's identity claim (John Doe) to the role claim (purchaser) for a resource (shopping cart: John Doe). --